

MINUTES
CLAY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015
ROOM B, 3RD FLOOR, CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Members Present: Kevin Campbell, Roger Richman, Wayne Lepper, Russ McDougall, Everett Nelson, Chuck Hendrickson, Russ Colson, Jim Haney, DiAnn Streifel

Members Absent: Grant Weyland, Joseph Pederson

Others Present: Kirk Rosenberger, Colleen Eck, Larry Henry, Shannon Thompson, Julie Kennedy, Kathy Ihle, Beth Harries, Stephanie Reynolds, Tim Magnusson, Steve Moore, Brian Berg, David Olek, Jennifer Pickett

On motion by Russ Colson, seconded by DiAnn Streifel, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the meeting agenda.

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Roger Richman, unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from February 19, 2015.

Waste Education-Shannon Thompson

Shannon Thompson passed out the Clay County 2015 Solid Waste (SW) Education Plan which has information about the general goals that SW wants to achieve to educate the community. Thompson said that certain platforms for social media have not been used much, and she will be working with Beth Harries to update the Clay County Solid Waste website at least once a month, and the SW calendar will be updated weekly. A Clay County Solid Waste twitter account will be set up and staff will create and post a minimum of two Clay County YouTube videos. Staff will approach the weekly newspapers in Clay County requesting column space for monthly SW updates. Newspaper and radio advertising space will be purchased to promote program changes and special events. Thompson mentioned peer-to-peer education, in which Clay County will partner with civic groups, congregations, youth-serving organizations, and others to deliver environmental education programs.

Message in a Bottle has been implemented and was promoted on Valley News Live. There are currently 22 participating locations around the area, with more to come. Thompson said we have expanded beyond where we thought we were going to get.

The Waste Art Exhibition is April 20th through April 24th and everyone was encouraged to partake in the exhibition. Earth Week t-shirts are made out of recycled 2-liter bottles and will be available for purchase.

Campus Waste-Beth Harries

Beth Harries presented a PowerPoint presentation called Waste Prevention and Recycling: Recap of 2014. The county recycling tonnage showed 2,901 tons recycled in 2014, a slight increase from 2013 which showed 2,502 tons recycled. Total average tonnage of recyclables per city in Clay County is approximately 263 tons. City recycling activity totaled 2,389,602 pounds, which averages to approximately 217,236 pounds per city in Clay County.

Clay County residential electronic recycling has almost doubled from the previous year with 163 tons, (or 326,715 pounds) collected. The amount of appliances recycled was 264. The number of bulbs recycled was 8,269. The number of rechargeable batteries and cellphones collected was 171 pounds, and this program just began in the fall season. Used oil filter recycling netted 1,500 pounds, and a map was introduced as to where new collection sites are. Two Gaylord boxes of Christmas lights were collected. The number of tires collected for recycling was 1,515.

Harries noted that Earth Day events are coming up and Clay County Solid Waste will be working with the tri-college groups. Mattress recycling is being looked into, as the local colleges will have approximately 800 mattresses to get rid of as the colleges prepare for summer vacation.

Landfill-Larry Henry

Larry Henry reported a lot of activity at the landfill with the scale being set up and running, but said that there is still concrete work that needs to be done. Two well clusters have been relocated along the east line of the property, to come into compliance with the MPCA. Ross Olson has gone through the Storm Water Treatment Program training. The landfill has had Emergency Waste Debris training that will enable the County to apply for FEMA assistance if there is a weather emergency. The weather has been good and Sentence to Serve has come out to the landfill to help clean things up. The landfill will try to schedule with the Sheriff Department's Chain Gang.

Henry said the landfill has taken in a lot of demolition material and said that there has been a problem with the contractors throwing their residential garbage in along with demo material. A form letter will be going out with the hope that the contractors will be able to educate their subcontractors, which is part of the process. There is new signage at the landfill indicating where all materials go. The flare has been working well and they are making progress, lines will be blown this spring. New bunkers will be reconstructed for the materials they have out at the landfill.

Household Hazardous Waste-Julie Kennedy

Julie Kennedy submitted the 2014 Clay County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) report which included public education. Information on the HHW program was handed out at the 2014 Earth Week celebration, township meetings, the Moorhead Public Library, Girl and Boy Scout presentations, West Acres Mall, and the Clay County Fair. In addition, ads with information on the HHW ran on local radio stations during the year, and there were Public Service

Announcements (PSA) in local newspapers with information on recycling, composting, and the proper handling and disposal methods for HHW.

Kennedy said the HHW facility received 12% more participants and 15% more hazardous waste materials than the previous year, 2013. The average amount of participants per day was 31 vehicle loads. Kennedy speculated that county residents are using the facility as a regular disposal site and not stockpiling chemicals, as in the past. The HHW exchange usage of products increased by 15%, but with an increase in participation of 6% over 2013.

Paint Care still has not signed on with the county or MPCA. They attend meetings but don't seem to have an urgency to participate. Paint Care did put an ad in the paper that Sherwin Williams in Moorhead is accepting paint.

Other-Kirk Rosenberger

Kirk Rosenberger reported that the Designation Plan was submitted, but the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) is requesting more information. The plan requires waste haulers to take their waste to the Transfer station or to the landfill. A full report will be available next month. The landfill permit application was submitted in November and the PCA is requesting more information. That information has been submitted and Rosenberger is waiting to hear word back from them.

Soil boring testing was done at the proposed Materials Resource Facility (MRF) site on Highway 75. Garbage showed up in some of the borings at the site, and there is fill material 25 to 30 feet deep. A full report on the MRF transfer station project will be available next month. There may be money available from Brownfields Cleanup and Restoration and the County is looking into that possibility for funding. Funding from the legislature still could happen too. The PCA is really interested in what Clay County is trying to do here.

The County-Owned Property Committee met regarding the organic composting project. Three properties were looked at for a site for the composting project and the committee decided to move ahead with the landfill site.

Kevin Campbell brought up a recent issue with Prairie Lakes. There are major discrepancies in the amount of steam being produced. It is not reaching the level that it was designed to produce, or the level that the board was told it would produce, which ultimately impacts revenue. They have moved to go forward with mediation because the contractors and engineers are pointing fingers at each other. Hopefully the issue will be settled. It could mean millions of dollars over a 25-year period.

On motion by Chuck Hendrickson, and DiAnn Streifel, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.